

C4  
Cand  
relative to each other. Lastly, in the region 16 the coating islands 18, which are the smallest in size when compared to the other coating islands 18 of the other regions, are arranged at a third, still greater spacing relative to each other. In that way the coating 16 can also go with the varying degree of stretching of the surface 4, without the coating 6 or the coating islands 18 suffering from spalling from the surface 4 of the wire 2 of the stent upon stretching thereof.

Amendments to the Figures

A new drawing sheet is provided in a separate paper filed herewith, in which the single figure is replaced by Figs. 1 and 2.

Amendments to the Claims

✓ Please cancel claims 5-6, 8-9, 13 and 15-16, without bias or prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

C5  
2. (thrice amended) The stent as set forth in claim 17 [13] wherein the coating has a non-uniform [an irregular] thickness.

C6  
7. (amended) The [A] stent as set forth in claim 17 [5] wherein the coating islands are all of substantially the same size.

10. (thrice amended) The stent as set forth in claim 18 [9] wherein the spacings of the coating islands are substantially the same [everywhere] within a given coating region.

C7  
11. (amended) The [A] stent as set forth in claim 17 [13] wherein the coating comprises biocompatible material.

12. (amended) The [A] stent as set forth in claim 17 [13] wherein the coating comprises [at least one member selected from a group consisting of:] amorphous silicon carbide [, hydrogenated amorphous silicon carbide and gold].

C8 14. (amended) The [A] stent as set forth in claim 18 [6] wherein the coating islands are all of substantially the same size.

Please enter the following new claims:

19. (new) The stent as set forth in claim 12 wherein the amorphous silicon carbide is hydrogenated.

20. (new) The stent as set forth in claim 18 wherein the coating has a non-uniform thickness.

21. (new) The stent as set forth in claim 20 wherein the coating is completely missing in at least one location on the surface of the stent.

C9 22. (new) The stent as set forth in claim 21 wherein the coating is interrupted in a patterned configuration.

23. (new) The stent as set forth in claim 18 wherein the coating comprises biocompatible material.

24. (new) A stent as set forth in claim 18 wherein the coating comprises amorphous silicon carbide.

25. (new) A stent as set forth in claim 24 wherein the amorphous silicon carbide is hydrogenated.